

# VERMONT'S CHILDREN

## Vermont's Children At a Glance<sup>1</sup>

State Population <sup>2</sup> .....	626,431	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup> .....	14.9%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup> .....	125,921	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup> .....	11.2%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup> .....	11.5%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup> .....	23.5%

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2011, Vermont had 13,884 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 3,385 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2011, 630 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont, a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 children, representing a 11.9% decrease from 2010. Of these children, 5.2% were neglected, 46.0% were physically abused, and 56.5% were sexually abused.<sup>9</sup>
- The number of child victims has decreased 27.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2007.<sup>10</sup>
- Vermont responds to lower risk, higher safety reports through alternative response services to address family issues. 1,259 reports were responded to in this way in 2011.<sup>11</sup>
- In 2011, 2 children in Vermont died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2011, 1,010 children in Vermont lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 933 children in 2010. In 2011, 249 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 228 were 16 or older.<sup>13</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 22.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2007.<sup>14</sup>
- Of Vermont children in out-of-home care in 2011, 95.2% were white, 1.7% black, 1.0% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.6% Asian or Pacific Islander and 0.0% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>15</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 542 children exiting out-of-home care in Vermont in 2011, 48.7% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2011, 134 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Vermont, a 16.8% decrease from 161 in 2010.<sup>17</sup>
- Of the 1,010 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 195 or 19.3% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>18</sup>
- In 2011, approximately 3,051 Vermont grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>19</sup>
- Of the 1,010 children in out-of-home care in 2011, 180 were living with relatives while in care.<sup>20</sup>
- Of all Vermont children in kinship care in 2010, 16.7% were white, 0.4% black, 0.7% Hispanic, 0.0% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.0% Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.4% of more than one race or ethnicity.<sup>21</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Vermont decreased from 6,345 in 2010 to 6,278 in 2011, an decrease of 1.1%. The number of families receiving TANF in 2011 was 2,869, a 0.8% decrease from 2010.<sup>22</sup>
- From 2009-10, for every 100 Vermont families living in poverty, only 58 received TANF benefits.<sup>23</sup>

- In 2011, \$73,028,114 was spent in Vermont on TANF assistance, including 22% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 7% on transportation, and 66% on nonassistance.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2011, 9,080,542 was spent on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Vermont, serving 15,913 participants.<sup>25</sup>
- In 2011, Vermont distributed \$46,483,138 in child support funds, a 0.2% decrease from 2010.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2011 in Vermont, 14,553 low income renter households paid more than half their monthly income in housing costs, 18% of them are families with children.<sup>27</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2010, Vermont had a monthly average of 4,400 children served by subsidized child care; 4,200 children received subsidized child care in 2009 and 3,500 in 2008.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2012, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Vermont, a family of three could make no more than \$36,600, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2012, Vermont had no waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2011, Head Start served 1,562 Vermont children, a 3.7% increase from 2010.<sup>31</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2011, 54,000 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Vermont—39% of the total number of enrollees in the state.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2011, Vermont had 7,054 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 0.4% increase from 2010, when 7,026 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2011, Vermont had 5,000 uninsured children, representing 4% of its child population.<sup>34</sup>
- In 2010, 382 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Vermont.<sup>35</sup>
- In 2010, 24 infants under age 1 died in Vermont.<sup>36</sup>
- In 2010, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Vermont was 8 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 31. This reflects a total rate of 18 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2011, 524 adults and adolescents, as well as 6 children younger than 13, were reported as having AIDS in Vermont.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, an estimated 4,000 children ages 12–17 and 49,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Vermont.<sup>39</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2011, 59 children aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in Vermont.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2011, 2,000 Vermont teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2011, 7,000 young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 in Vermont needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2009 and 2010, approximately 2,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>44</sup>
- In 2010, less than 10 Vermont children younger than 20 committed suicide.<sup>45</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2010, fewer than 10 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Vermont, as was the case in 2009.<sup>46</sup>
- In 2011, 953 children younger than 18 were arrested in Vermont, a 7.0% decrease from 1,030 arrests in 2010. Of the arrests in 2011, 35 were for violent crimes.<sup>47</sup>
- In 2010, 33 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Vermont.<sup>48</sup>

## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>49</sup>

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children.<sup>50</sup>
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>51</sup>
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>52</sup>

## FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR VERMONT'S CHILDREN

- Out of 1,010 children in out-of-home care in Vermont in 2011, only 480, or 48%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>53</sup>
- In 2010, Vermont spent \$84,096,689 for child welfare services. Of this amount, \$53,238,217 was from federal funds, \$30,858,472 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.<sup>54</sup>
- In 2010, of the \$53,238,217 in federal funds received for child welfare, \$22,380,041 was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, \$572,153 came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, \$21,602,922 was from Medicaid, \$5,077,336 came from Social Services Block Grant, \$2,017,337 was from TANF, and \$1,588,428 came from other federal sources.<sup>55</sup>
- Vermont received \$9,712,815 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2011, including \$5,607,171 for maintenance payments, \$3,236,448 for administration and child placement, and \$910,986 for training.<sup>56</sup>
- Vermont received \$8,155,517 in federal funds for IV-E adoption assistance expenditures in 2011, including \$7,919,733 for assistance payments, and \$235,784 for administration and child placement.<sup>57</sup>

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Patrick J. Leahy (D) <i>Judiciary, Chair Appropriations</i>	437 Russell	224-4242	224-3479	Leahy.senate.gov	2016
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<b>House:</b>					
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**Key Committee Jurisdictions**

**Senate H.E.L.P.:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

**Senate Judiciary:** Juvenile Justice

**Senate Finance:** Child Welfare Reform; Medicaid & Mental Health; SSBG Child Welfare Services & Promoting Safe and Stable Families; TANF

**House Education & the Workforce:** CAPTA; Child Care & Head Start; ESEA

**House Judiciary:** Juvenile Justice

**House Ways & Means:** Child Welfare Reform, SSBG, CWS & PSSF, TANF

**House Energy & Commerce:** Medicaid & Mental Health

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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<sup>1</sup> “At A Glance” statistics are from 2011.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals, 2011*. Retrieved January 23, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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<sup>11</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. (2012). *Child Maltreatment 2011: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-1: Children Who Received a CPS Response by Disposition, 2011*. Retrieved January 25 2012 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm11.pdf>.

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<sup>13</sup> Special tabulation of the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS) by National Data Archive for Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) and CWLA.

<sup>14</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (n.d.). *Foster Care FY2003-FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entrEXIT2011.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>15</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>16</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>17</sup> Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Adoptions of children with public child welfare agency involvement by state*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/adoptchild11.pdf>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>18</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Quick Links to Nation or State level Profiles: *American Community Survey, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2011*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

<sup>20</sup> Special tabulation of AFCARS by NDACAN and CWLA.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. Note: Total percentage may not equal 100 because the race/ethnicity of some children was not reported or missing. Percentages are a CWLA calculation.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2012). TANF: Total Number of Recipients. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/2011-recipient-tan>.

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Note: The percent differences are CWLA special tabulations.

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<sup>24</sup> Administration for Children and Families. (2012). *Fiscal Year 2011 TANF Financial Data: Table B.1: Summary of Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures in FY 2011*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2011>.

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<sup>27</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2011). *National and State Housing Data Factsheet, Spreadsheet with State-by-State Rental Assistance Data: Federal Rental Assistance in the United States and U.S. Territories*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3586>.

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<sup>28</sup> Administration on Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2011). *2010 CCDF Data Tables (Preliminary Estimates); Table 1: Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Children and Families Served*. Retrieved January 30, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/ccdf-data-10acf800-preliminary>.

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<sup>29</sup> Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2012). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times: Table 1A: Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2011 and 2012*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012\\_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf).

<sup>30</sup> Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2012). *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times: Table 2: Waiting Lists for Child Care Assistance*. Retrieved February 11, 2013 from [http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012\\_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. (2012). *Head Start Program Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2011*. Retrieved February 13, 2013 from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/factsheets/2011-hs-program-factsheet.html>.

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<sup>34</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *Table HIB-5. Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage by State—Children Under 18: 1999 to 2011*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/data/historical/files/hihist5B.xls>

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<sup>37</sup> Martin, J., Hamilton, B., Ventura, S., Osterman, M., Wilson, E., Mathew, T.J.. (2012). *National Vital Statistics Report: Births: Final Data for 2010- Table 12. Birth rate, by age of mother : United States, each state and territory, 2010--*. Retrieved March 7, 2013 from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61\\_01.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr61/nvsr61_01.pdf).

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<sup>39</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 20-Dependence or Abuse of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved March 1, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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<sup>43</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. (n.d.). *State Estimates of Substance Use & Mental Health from the 2009-2010 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health: Table 21-Needing But Not Receiving Treatment for Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Estimated Numbers (in Thousands), Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs*. Retrieved February 20, 2013 from <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10State/NSDUHsae2010/NSDUHsaeCountTabs2010.htm>.

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<sup>45</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS). (n.d.). *Suicide Injury Deaths and Rates per 100,000: All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 to 19*. Retrieved March 13, 2013, from [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html).

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>48</sup> Sickmund, M., Sladky, T.J., Kang, W., & Puzanchera, C. (2011). *Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement*. Retrieved February 14, 2013 from [www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp](http://www.ojdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezacjrp).

<sup>49</sup> Note: The dearth in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.

<sup>50</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office. (2003). *Child Welfare: HHS Could Play a Greater Role in Helping Child Welfare Agencies Recruit and Retain Staff*. Retrieved January 19, 2012 from [www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03357.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (2012). *Foster Care FY2003–FY2011 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal year*. Retrieved February 28, 2013 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf>.

Note: The penetration rate is a CWLA calculation of special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care expenditures.

<sup>54</sup> DeVooght, K., Fletcher, M, Vaughn, B., & Cooper, H. (2012). *Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFYs 2008 and 2010*. Washington, DC: Child Trends. Retrieved March 18, 2013 from [http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2012\\_06\\_20\\_FR\\_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2012_06_20_FR_CaseyCWFinancing.pdf).

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Special Children's Bureau data on state IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support, pre-placement, and demonstration funds for this state.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

Note: The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional partner training funds.